



OAHU BABE RUTH LEAGUE

2620 Nahaku Place, Apt. A
Honolulu, Hawaii 96826



April 21, 2015

Mr. Ernest Y. Martin, Chair
Honolulu City Council
Honolulu Hale, Room 203
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Bill 13 (2015), CD1

Dear Chair Martin:

We support the passage of Bill 13 setting aside \$500,000 for much needed improvements for Patsy T. Mink Central Oahu Regional Park (CORP).

We began our program in 1999 and have seen maintenance at CORP challenged because of fiscal restraints placed on the administration and staff at the park. When first developed, maintenance funding was adequate. However, funding has not kept up with the higher demands of an aging facility. We will host the 2016 Pacific Southwest Cal Ripken 12U Regional involving teams from California, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, Guam and Hawaii. The winner will move on to the Cal Ripken World Series in Aberdeen, Maryland.

Usage has increased over the years, requiring more man hours to maintain the various venues to assure a safe environment for the many youth organizations using the fields. Throughout the year, we utilize both youth and adult baseball fields to accommodate over 120 teams that play over 1100 games.

Our usage fees over the last four (4) years has exceeded \$20,000 annually. These fees do not cover any maintenance for the upkeep of the fields as it is deposited into the general fund. We also pay an additional \$5,000 annually to maintain the playing fields (moving dirt, leveling the fields, cutting grass) so our program participants play under safe conditions. We also provide the chalk powder to line the fields since the county discontinued providing manpower to line the fields due to budget constraints.

Any financial assistance for maintenance programs for the park would be highly beneficial and we support efforts for the passage of Bill 13 (2015). CD1.

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